

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.:

Group Art Unit:

Inventor: P.S. Spoor

Filed: Concurrently

Title: Free Piston Device With
Time Varying Clearance Seal

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

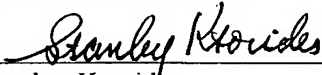
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.51, 1.56 and 1.97 to 1.99, the following is a relevance statement on each citation listed on attached form PTO-1449, and is made of record to assist the Patent & Trademark Office in its examination of this application:

U.S. 4,911,618 – Suganami et al. discloses a cryocompressor having a check valve arranged in a circuit connecting a compression chamber defined by a piston disposed in a cylinder with an annular gap small enough to provide an expected sealing effect to a buffer chamber also defined by the piston in the cylinder, a cross sectional area of the annular gap between the piston and the cylinder being larger on the side of the compression chamber than on the side of the buffer chamber. There is no disclosure of a free piston device which comprises a time varying clearance seal to counteract piston drift and thus this patent neither discloses nor suggests applicant's claimed invention.

Respectfully submitted,



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